

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination is enclosed with this amendment to remove the finality of the office action mailed on April 29, 2005.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 are amended.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Wood (US 5,805,433). In response, independent claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 are amended to clearly distinguish over Wood. In particular, claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 now recite a detection circuit that includes:

...switching circuitry that selectively switches the intermediate node potential or the reference potential;
and

inverter circuitry that receives either the intermediate node potential or the reference potential from the switching circuitry and provides a detection signal to the DC-DC conversion circuit when the intermediate node potential becomes below or equal to a predetermined potential...

As shown in applicant's Figs. 5 and 10, detection circuit 33 includes switching circuitry S1, S2 that selectively switches the intermediate node potential VMA or the reference potential Vss. *See specification, page 23, paragraph [0084]*. Detection circuit 33 further includes inverter circuitry 331 that receives either the intermediate node potential or the reference potential from the switching circuitry and provides a detection signal NOFF to output driver or conversion circuit 31B when the intermediate node potential VMA becomes below or equal to a predetermined potential. *See specification, page 23, paragraph [0081]*. According to

the present invention, detection circuit 33 outputs detection signal NOFF after detecting that the potential VMA of the intermediate node K has reached the Vss level. *See specification, page 17, paragraph [0068].*

Wood discloses regulation of power converter circuit 10 using a feedback loop that manipulates the PWM duty cycle of driver 104. Sensed voltage Vs is coupled to the input of a three terminal shunt regulator 102 having a common terminal coupled to -COM and an output terminal coupled to CT terminal of driver 104. Shunt regulator 102 operates to change the duty cycle of the self-oscillating driver 104 in response to line and load changes. *See Wood, FIG. 1 and Col. 3, line 62 to Col. 4, line 8.* The Action asserts that Wood discloses a sensor for detecting a level of an intermediate node potential Vs at a junction point of the high and low side transistors. However, as is clear from Wood's Figure 1, *Wood does not disclose or suggest a detection circuit having switching circuitry or inverter circuitry*, as is now required by claims 1-20, as amended.

Since Wood does not disclose each and every element of claims 1-20, as amended, it cannot anticipate claims 1-20. The rejection under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

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Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2005

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Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.
50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 

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